

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2145

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BRAZILIAN MINISTER - COUNSELOR
TO PORTUGAL

IN CONVERSATION WITH LEITE RIBEIRO, BRAZILIAN MINISTER-
COUNSELOR DESIGNATE TO PORTUGAL, FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

A. LEITE RIBEIRO IS CONVINCED THAT CURRENT PERCEPTIBLE
MODIFICATIONS IN BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD PORTUGAL
AND PORTUGUESE AFRICA UNDER THE MEDICI GOVERNMENT WILL
NOT ONLY BE CONTINUED BUT "ACCENTUATED" WITH INAUGURATION
OF GEISEL GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 15.

B. PORTUGUESE AFRICA WILL BE PRINCIPAL CONCERN UNDER NEW
BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL. IT WAS THE AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE'S OPINION THAT BRAZILIAN POLICY IN THIS CONNECTION
SHOULD BE CLOSELY LINKED TO THAT OF THE U.S.

C. A REVEALING HOUSEKEEPING DETAIL IS THE FACT THAT LEITE
RIBEIRO IS CONCERNED OVER THE STATE OF THE EMBASSY INTERNAL
SECURITY. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE BRAZILIAN MISSION IN
PORTUGAL DOES NOT HAVE A SUITABLE SAFE TO STORE CONFIDENTIAL
DOCUMENTS. ANTICIPATING INCREASED TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS, HE IS SEEKING TO INSURE THE EMBASSY'S INTEGRITY
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AGAINST PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES.

D. LEITE RIBEIRO IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT THE PORTUGUESE ARE LIKELY EASILY TO MODIFY THEIR AFRICAN POLICY AT ANY TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE ALTHOUGH HE WAS FASCINATED BY REPORTS ON GENERAL SPINOLA'S NEW BOOK. HE IS CONCERNED OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WILL TURN TO SOUTH AFRICA IN THE EVENT OF SOME POLITICAL CATAclysm.

E. NEVERTHELESS, A NUMBER OF LEITE RIBEIRO'S QUESTIONS REVOLVED AROUND WHETHER THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAD SIGNIFICANT POPULAR SUPPORT IN THE TERRITORIES AND WHETHER THEY WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY REPRESENTATIVE TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE.

F. LEITE RIBEIRO HAS ALSO OBVIOUSLY BEEN DOING A GOOD DEAL OF RESEARCH ON THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AFFECTS OF THE AFRICAN WARS AND PORTUGAL'S LONG TERM ABILITY TO CONTINUE HER PRESENT EFFORTS.
CRIMMINS

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